

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein.

The specification and claim 1 have been amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, withdrawal of the objections to the specification and to claims 1–3 and 8–9 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of (JP 63-174296). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Claim 1 was amended herein to clarify the language and to place the application in better form for appeal. This amendment merely restates the same limitation present in the originally filed claim, which has been considered by the Examiner.

The combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296 fails to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in claim 1. Specifically, neither Yoshimura nor JP 63-174296 teach or suggest a heating member and electricity feeding ports mounted to the ceiling wall of a heating apparatus at a position *away from* a line that equally divides the ceiling wall into front and rear portions, as required by claim 1. The Examiner points to Figures 1, 4, and 5 of JP 63-174296 as disclosing this limitation; however, in each of Figures of JP 63-174296, at least one of the heating member and the electricity feeding ports are mounted along a center line of the ceiling wall of heating apparatus that divides the ceiling wall into equal front and rear portions. Yoshimura does not make up for these deficiencies of JP 63-174296. It appears that the Examiner misinterpreted the translated language of

claim 1 when making the present rejection. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, which merely clarifies the original limitation, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296 and further in view of JP 62-100982. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable over the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296, as discussed above. JP 62-100982 does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, and JP 62-100982 cannot render claim 2 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura (JP 54-48348) in view of JP 63-174296 and further in view of Noda et al. (JP 05-74568). Claim 9 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable over the combination of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296, as discussed above. Noda does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Yoshimura and JP 63-174296. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshimura, JP 63-174296, and Noda cannot render claim 9 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 10/539,109
Amendment dated March 6, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action dated December 12, 2006

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38340.

Respectfully submitted,
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